



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ISDA Submits Proposal for Use of Specialty Crop Funds

Specialty crop projects across Idaho will soon receive funding from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture thanks to the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The State of Idaho was allocated \$876,435.46 for projects that would enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

In May, the Department announced a competitive grant process and began accepting applications. Thirty-one grant applications were submitted at a total request of nearly \$2.8 million. A panel of industry representatives reviewed and scored all applications and provided input to ISDA for final selection. A total of eleven projects were selected for funding. These projects include research for commodities such as potatoes, beans, apples, grapes, and mint; as well as educational, value-added processing, and promotional activities.

"The Department is very pleased with the quality of projects that have been selected to receive the funding," commented Director Celia Gould, ISDA. "These projects truly will enhance Idaho's specialty crop industry."

The Department's State Plan was submitted to USDA on August 26 and consisted of the eleven selected projects. Final approval is expected from USDA sometime in September.

Program requirements governing eligibility were published in the Federal Register. Specialty crops were defined to include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. Eligible projects were required to benefit more than one product or organization.

If you have questions about the grant program, please contact Lacey Menasco at lacey.menasco@agri.idaho.gov or 208-332-8538.

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**Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2009 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**

Grants Selected and Included in State Plan**
8/26/09

Caldwell/Canyon County Economic Development Council - \$30,000.00

Value-Added Solutions for Post-Harvest Perishables

Agricultural Research Service, Dr. Krista Shellie - \$58,306.80

Adaptation of lesser-known Wine Grape cultivars to climate Features of the Snake River Valley AVA

Idaho Apple Commission - \$93,000.00

Increasing Fruit Quality and Global Competitiveness of Idaho Apples Through Efficient Use of water, Nutrition, and Orchard Design

Idaho Bean Commission - \$122,000.84

Development of Virus-resistant Yellow Bean Seed for Domestic Sale and Export to Mexico

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force - \$2,759.06

"Just" Food for Idaho

Idaho Mint Commission - \$36,447.00

Development of an Economic Threshold for Mint Root Borer in Peppermint

Idaho Potato Commission - \$167,080.00

Sustainable production of new varieties from the Pacific Northwest Potato Variety Development

Snake River Table Grape Growers Association - \$73,691.50

Variety Selection and Evaluation of Growth Regulators, Canopy Design, and Crop Load to Improve Fruit Quality if Idaho Table Grape for the Global Market

Boise State University dba TechHelp - \$80,033.00

Improving the Competitiveness of Onion, Potato, Apple, Cherry and Dry Bean Packaging/Processing Operations through Training and on-site Assistance

University of Idaho - \$74,999.60

Potato Virus Y Control in Idaho

Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Idaho Preferred® - \$58,441.71

Television Promotion of Idaho Specialty Crops

** The above grants have been submitted in the Department's State Plan but not yet approved by USDA.

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